

REMARKS

Prior to the entrance of this amendment, claims 1-6 and 8-30 were pending. Claims 22-30 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 13 and 16 have been allowed. Claims 2-4, 8, 17, and 22-30 are canceled herein.

The amendments set forth herein adopt suggestions from the examiner (acknowledged with thanks) from a telephone conversation on July 17, 2003, for the purpose of expediting allowance.

Support for the amended claims is found throughout the specification. The present amendment introduces no new matter, and is made without prejudice to pursue the subject matter of any original claim in a related application. Amended claim 1 finds support in canceled claims 2-4. Amended claim 12 finds support in claim 9 and canceled claim 8. Amended claim 21 finds support in claim 18 and canceled claim 17. Applicants reserve their right to pursue any unclaimed subject matter in related applications.

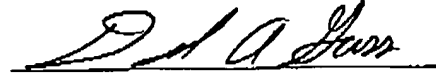
Allowance of this case will render moot any provisional double patenting rejection based on related pending application U.S.S.N. 09/719,212. The propriety of such a rejection is properly addressed by the examiner of U.S.S.N. 09/719,212 when considering the claims of that case in relation to the claims that issue from the present case. From the telephone conversation of July 17th, it is the applicants understanding that the examiner will advise the examiner of U.S.S.N. 09/719,212 of the allowance of the present case.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order to discuss any remaining issues or matters of form that will move this case to allowance.

No fees are believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-2855 of the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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